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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/696,851	10/30/2003	Carsten Sorensen	M61.12-0542	8093

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EXAMINER
WALSH, JOHN B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2151	

DATE MAILED: 10/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address* --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____ .

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL.**   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-22* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-22* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date *7/18/2005*.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2.   Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No.

6,901,430 to Smith.

As concerns claim 1, a communication system for communicating business information

from a first business to a second business, the system comprising: an instant messaging

component configured to receive, as an instant message, a business information access request

from the second business and generate an output based on the business information access

request (column 3, lines 35-37); a data store storing business information corresponding to the

business information access request (column 3, lines 37-39); and a data store accessing system

accessing the data store based on the output from the instant messaging component (column 3,

lines 39-41).

As concerns claim 2, the communication system of claim 1 wherein the instant messaging

component is configured to generate, as an instant message, a response to the business

information access request (column 3, lines 44-46).

As concerns claim 3, the communication system of claim 2 wherein the business

information access request is a data inquiry requesting data from the data store related to a

business transaction, and wherein the data store accessing system is configured to access the data store by executing a query against the data store to retrieve responsive information responsive to the inquiry (column 3, lines 53-55).

As concerns claim 4, the communication system of claim 2 wherein the business information access request is a status request requesting status of a business transaction, and wherein the data store accessing system is configured to access the data store by executing a query against the data store to retrieve status information responsive to the status request (column 3, lines 50-55).

As concerns claim 5, the communication system of claim 4 wherein the instant messaging component is configured to generate the response as a status response based on the status Information (column 3, line 58).

As concerns claim 6, the communication system of claim 2 wherein the business information access request is a data update request, and wherein the data store accessing system is configured to access the data store by updating the data store based on the data update request (column 10, lines 31-35).

As concerns claim 7, the communication system of claim 6 wherein the data update request is a quote-to-order request, requesting that information in the data store indicative of a quote be updated to be indicative of an order (column 10, lines 36-47; column 19, line 28).

As concerns claim 8, the communication system of claim 2 and further comprising: an alternate response channel, other than instant messaging, wherein the instant messaging component is configured to generate a response using the alternate response channel (column 12, lines 47-55).

As concerns claim 9, a system for communicating with a remote business, comprising: a user interface component configured to display an indication of the remote business and a plurality of features corresponding to the remote business and receive a user input indicative of a selected feature corresponding to the business information request (column 6, line 64); and an instant messaging component, coupled to the user interface component, configured to receive an indication of the business information request, generate the business information request as an instant message, and transmit the instant message to the remote business (column 3, lines 35-37).

As concerns claim 10, the system of claim 9 wherein the user interface component is configured to display one of the plurality of features as a business transaction status inquiry (column 6, line 65).

As concerns claim 11, the system of claim 9 wherein the user interface component is configured to display one of the plurality of features (column 6, line 65) as a data manipulation feature for manipulating business data at the remote business (column 3, line 10, configures).

As concerns claim 12, the system of claim 11 wherein the data manipulation feature comprises a quote-to-order feature for converting a quote to an order (column 10, lines 36-47, column 19, line 28).

As concerns claim 13, the system of claim 9 wherein the instant messaging component is configured to receive a response instant message from the remote business, responsive to the business information request (column 3, lines 44-46).

As concerns claim 14, the system of claim 13 wherein the user interface component is configured to display (column 6, line 65) the response instant message.

As concerns claim 15, a computer implemented method in a first business of communicating with a second business, comprising: receiving an instant message indicative of a data access operation requested by the second business (column 3, lines 35-37); generating a data store access operation request based on the instant message received (column 3, lines 37-39); and performing the data access operation on a business data store at the first business that stores business data related to the second business (column 3, lines 39-41).

As concerns claim 16, the method of claim 15 and further comprising: sending an instant message to the second business indicative of performance of the data access operation (column 3, lines 44-46).

As concerns claim 17, the method of claim 15 wherein the data access operation comprises an information request and wherein generating a data access operation request comprises: generating a data store query based on the information request (column 3, lines 53-55).

As concerns claim 18. The method of claim 17 wherein performing the data access operation comprises: executing the data store query against the business data store (column 3, lines 53-55).

As concerns claim 19, the method of claim 15 wherein the data access operation comprises a status inquiry requesting status of a business transaction, and wherein generating a data access operation request comprises: generating a data store query based on the status inquiry (column 3, lines 53-55).

As concerns claim 20, the method of claim 15 wherein the data access operation comprises a data update operation to update data in the business data store, and wherein

generating a data access operation request comprises: generating a data store update request

based on the data update operation (column 10, lines 31-35).

As concerns claim 21, the method of claim 20 wherein performing the data access

operation comprises: executing the data store update request against the business data store

(column 10, lines 31-35).

As concerns claim 22, the method of claim 16 and further comprising: sending a

responsive communication to the second business through an alternate communication channel

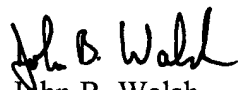(column 12, lines 47-55).

Conclusion

3.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's

disclosure.

4.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to John B. Walsh whose telephone number is 571-272-7063. The

examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Wednesday from 5:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Zarni Maung can be reached on 571-272-3939. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

John B. Walsh
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2151